CONFIDENTIAL

EXCISE

NR: 560

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE (O/FADRC)

DATE: March 23, 1978

FROM: Amembassy GEORGETOWN

SUBJECT: Privacy Act requests of Disciples of Christ (Peoples Temple)

REF: A. Department's CM dated December 14, 1977
B. STATE 287946
C. 77 GEORGETOWN 3221

Since receipt of the CM under reference a thorough review of consulate files has been conducted in an effort to locate any communication or documents which contain references to the various individuals listed in the enclosure to that CM.

The following telegrams, all of which were transmitted to the Department and are presumably available in Washington, contain references to one or more of the listed individuals:

SCS Georgetown 0572 of 2/16/78 - UNCL
SCS Georgetown 0549 of 2/15/78 - LOU
ARA Georgetown 0270 of 1/19/78 - LOU
SCS Georgetown 0147 of 1/11/78 - LOU
SCS Georgetown 0092 of 1/9/78 - LOU
SCS Georgetown 0057 of 1/6/78 - LOU

SCS Georgetown 3048 of 11/28/77 - UNCL
SCS Georgetown 3033 of 11/25/77 - LOU
SCS Georgetown 2890 of 11/14/77 - LOU
ARA Georgetown 2528 of 10/12/77 - UNCL
ARA Georgetown 2435 of 10/4/77 - UNCL
SCS Georgetown 2425 of 10/3/77 - UNCL
ARA Georgetown 2363 of 9/27/77 - UNCL
ARA Georgetown 2334 of 9/23/77 - LOU
ARA Georgetown 2316 of 9/21/77 - LOU
ARA Georgetown 2269 of 9/19/77 - LOU
SCS Georgetown 2206 of 9/12/77 - UNCL
SCS Georgetown 2175 of 9/8/77 - LOU
SCS Georgetown 2132 of 9/6/77 - LOU
SCS Georgetown 2087 of 9/1/77 - LOU
SCS Georgetown 2010 of 8/25/77 - CONF
ARA Georgetown 0671 of 4/1/77 - LOU

In addition the consulate has located and we forward herewith copies of several documents, including memoranda for the files, which also contain references to one or more of the individuals on whose behalf the law firm of Garry, Dreyfus, McTernan, Brotsky, Herndor, & Pesonen has made the Privacy Act request.

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FORM 9-61 DS-682

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MP
REVIEWED BY John Simms STATE
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED
3-27-81

The Department should be aware that many of the cables and documents referred to above also include references to individual American citizens who do not figure in the list provided and who appear not to be clients of the law firm in question. Furthermore, several of the cables and documents deal with a custody case still pending before the Guyanese courts. The San Francisco law firm and some of the individuals listed in the Department's CM represent the "other side" in that legal process; it seems quite probable therefore that the plaintiffs in that matter might register objection to the release of the documents and communications in question if they were made aware of the fact that a request for release had been made.

Separate and apart from the considerations raised in the preceding paragraph, the Embassy has the following specific objection to the release of certain of the documents in question:

a. 77 Georgetown 0671 dated April 1, 1977. The release of this telegram could be embarrassing to both the USG and GOG since it involves the disclosure of a privileged conversation between our Charge and the Foreign Minister of Guyana. The telegram also refers to the passing of sensitive information from the Foreign Minister to the Charge.

b [redacted] 3) NLD

c. This document is a diplomatic note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Guyana on September 16, 1977. Because of its substance its release and/or publication could be seriously damaging to our relations with the government of Guyana.

Enclosures: As stated above.

AMB:JRBurke/CON:RMcCoy:ahm

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